



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

---

*517 East Wisconsin Avenue*

*414 / 297-1700*

*Milwaukee, WI 53202*

*TTY 414 / 297-1088*

**April 16, 2004**

**NEWS SUMMARY:**

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that Reid E. Turowski (DOB: 12/9/74), of Waukesha, Wisconsin, was sentenced by District Judge Lynn Adelman to 10 months in prison for smuggling live, protected, and endangered wildlife into the United States from Thailand, for resale at Turowski's business, Captive Bred Specialties, at reptile shows in the Midwest, and via internet sites such as [kingsnake.com](http://kingsnake.com). Turowski also was ordered to spend 2 years on supervised release following his prison term and to pay a \$500 fine. During his term of supervised release, Turowski also is prohibited from operating any business involving exotic wildlife.

In July 2003, a federal grand jury indicted Turowski and Leong Tian Kum of Bangkok, Thailand, for arranging to have undeclared wildlife shipped into the United States in Federal Express packages which had been falsely labeled as containing handicrafts, art, or stuffed animals. The animals were not accompanied by any of the permits required by federal law and an international treaty known as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

According to court documents, agents intercepted over 170 tortoises, turtles, tree monitor lizards, water dragons, and other animals concealed in Federal Express packages shipped by Kum from Thailand to customers in the U.S. Over 150 of these specimens were shipped to Turowski. As part of his plea agreement, Turowski acknowledged that the market value of the smuggled wildlife he received was over \$21,000. As part of his plea agreement, Turowski also agreed to reimburse the United States Fish & Wildlife Service for costs incurred for caring for the animals at a zoo in Minnesota.

Kum, who had admitted smuggling wildlife worth between \$120,000 and \$200,000, previously was sentenced to 41 months of imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling for prosecution.

# # #

For more information contact:  
United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling  
Public Affairs Liaison Francia Wendelborn  
414-297-1700